

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) An integrated plasmid comprising a biotin synthase gene, an assistant DNA sequence for the integration of said plasmid into a host genome, a promoter sequence, and a selection marker.
2. (Withdrawn) The integrated plasmid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the biotin synthase gene is derived from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* or *Candida utilis*.
3. (Withdrawn) The integrated plasmid as claimed in claim 2, wherein the biotin synthase gene of *Candida utilis* comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.
4. (Withdrawn) The integrated plasmid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the assistant DNA sequence is a *Candida utilis* fragment selected from the group consisting of NsiI-BamHI I8s rDNA, URA3 DNA, and HIS3 DNA.
5. (Withdrawn) The integrated plasmid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the selection marker is a cycloheximide-resistant gene.
6. (Withdrawn) The integrated plasmid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the promoter sequence is selected from the group consisting of pL41 promoter of *Candida utilis* and pADHI promoter of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

7. (Withdrawn) The integrated plasmid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the integrated plasmid is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) pMCC21 (having the configuration of restriction sites in FIG. 6);
- (b) pMCC31S (having the configuration of restriction sites in FIG. 8);
- (c) pMCC32H (having the configuration of restriction sites in FIG. 9);
- (d) pMCC33U (having the configuration of restriction sites in FIG. 10);
- (e) pMCC35U (having the configuration of restriction sites in FIG. 11);
- (f) pMCC36H (having the configuration of restriction sites in FIG. 12); and
- (g) pMCC38S (having the configuration of restriction sites in FIG. 13).

8. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a yeast with improved high biotin productivity, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing constructing an integrating plasmid comprising:
 - (i) a promoter sequence that is functional in yeast, and which is operably linked to a polynucleotide sequence encoding *Candida utilis* biotin synthase gene;
 - (ii) an assistant DNA sequence to promote for the integration of said plasmid into a host genome, a promoter sequence; and
 - (iii) a polynucleotide sequence encoding a yeast selectable marker;
- (b) linearizing said integrated integrating plasmid; and
- (c) transforming said linearized integrated integrating plasmid into the a- yeast; and under conditions that permit-recombining recombination between the *Candida utilis* biotin synthase gene with and the yeast genome.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding *Candida utilis* biotin synthase gene of *Candida utilis* comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

11. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the assistant DNA sequence is a *Candida utilis* fragment selected from the group consisting of Nsil-BamHI I8s rDNA, URA3 DNA, and HIS3 DNA.
12. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the selection marker is a cycloheximide-resistant resistance gene.
13. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the promoter sequence is selected from the group consisting of pL41 promoter of *Candida utilis* and pADHI promoter of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.
14. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the prepared yeast with improved high biotin-productivity is useful in as feed additives, food additives, or cosmetics.
15. (Withdrawn) A method for producing biotin, comprising:
 - providing the yeast with high biotin-productivity of claim 8; and
 - culturing said yeast in a nutrient medium, and
 - recovering biotin from the culture broth.
16. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the recovered biotin is useful as feed additives, food additives, or cosmetics.